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Substantively Consolidated SIPA Liquidation of
Bernard L. Madoff Investment Securities LLC and
the Estate of Bernard L. Madoff*

**UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK**

SECURITIES INVESTOR PROTECTION
CORPORATION,

Plaintiff-Applicant,

v.

BERNARD L. MADOFF INVESTMENT
SECURITIES LLC,

Defendant.

Adv. Pro. No. 08-01789 (SMB)

SIPA LIQUIDATION

(Substantively Consolidated)

In re:

BERNARD L. MADOFF,

Debtor.

IRVING H. PICARD, Trustee for the Liquidation
of Bernard L. Madoff Investment Securities LLC,

Plaintiff,

v.

LANX BM INVESTMENTS, LLC, THE LANX
FUND II, LP, WOLFSON COUSINS, LP, EDARA
PARTNERSHIP, and SARAH TRUST,

Defendants.

Adv. Pro. No. 10-04384 (SMB)

TRUSTEE'S FIRST AMENDED COMPLAINT

Plaintiff Irving H. Picard (the "Trustee"), as trustee for the liquidation of the business of Bernard L. Madoff Investment Securities LLC ("BLMIS") under the Securities Investor Protection Act, 15 U.S.C. §§ 78aaa, *et seq.* ("SIPA"),¹ and the substantively consolidated estate of Bernard L. Madoff ("Madoff," and with BLMIS, "Debtors"), by the Trustee's undersigned counsel, for his first amended complaint (the "First Amended Complaint") states as follows:

NATURE OF PROCEEDING

1. This adversary proceeding arises from the massive Ponzi scheme perpetrated by Madoff. Over the course of the scheme, there were more than 8,000 client accounts at BLMIS. In early December 2008, BLMIS generated client account statements for its approximately 4,900 open client accounts. When added together, these statements purport to show that clients of BLMIS had approximately \$65 billion invested with BLMIS. In reality, BLMIS had assets on hand worth a small fraction of that amount. On March 12, 2009, Madoff admitted to the fraudulent scheme and pled guilty to 11 felony counts, and was sentenced on June 29, 2009 to 150 years in prison. The within defendants Lanx BM Investments, LLC ("Initial Transferee Defendant" or "Lanx Investments"), The Lanx Fund II, LP, Wolfson Cousins, LP, Edara Partnership, and Sarah Trust ("Subsequent Transferee Defendants," and collectively, "Defendants") received avoidable transfers from BLMIS (the "Transfers.")

2. Defendants were beneficiaries of Madoff's Ponzi scheme. The Trustee's investigation has revealed that between December 11, 2006 and December 11, 2008, Defendants received \$5,717,254 in fictitious profits from the Ponzi scheme, meaning that Defendants withdrew more than was invested in Defendants' BLMIS account. Accordingly, Defendants

¹ Hereinafter, applicable sections of SIPA shall be cited as SIPA § ____, and omit reference to title 15, United States Code.

have received \$5,717,254 of other people's money. The Subsequent Transferee Defendants received subsequent transfers of the Transfers.

3. The Transfers of fictitious profits to or for the benefit of the Defendants constitute avoidable transfers and are recoverable by the Trustee. This action is brought to recover the fictitious profit amount so that this customer property can be equitably distributed among all of the victims of BLMIS.

4. This adversary proceeding is brought pursuant to sections 78fff(b), 78fff-1(a) and 78fff-2(c)(3) of SIPA, sections 105(a), 548(a), 550(a) and 551 of title 11 of the United States Code (the "Bankruptcy Code"), and other applicable law, for avoidance of fraudulent conveyances in connection with certain transfers of property by BLMIS to or for the benefit of Defendants. The Trustee seeks to set aside such transfers and preserve and recover the property for the benefit of the BLMIS estate.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

5. This is an adversary proceeding commenced in this Court, in which the main underlying SIPA proceeding, No. 08-01789 (SMB) (the "SIPA Proceeding"), is pending. The SIPA Proceeding was originally brought in the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York as *Securities Exchange Commission v. Bernard L. Madoff Investment Securities LLC et al.*, No. 08 CV 10791 (the "District Court Proceeding") and has been referred to this Court. This Court has jurisdiction over this adversary proceeding under 28 U.S.C. § 1334(b) and (e)(1), and 15 U.S.C. §§ 78eee(b)(2)(A) and (b)(4).

6. This is a core proceeding under 28 U.S.C. §§ 157(b)(2)(A), (H) and (O). The Trustee consents to the entry of final orders or judgment by this Court if it is determined that consent of the parties is required for this Court to enter final orders or judgment consistent with Article III of the U.S. Constitution.

7. Venue in this district is proper under 28 U.S.C. § 1409

8. This adversary proceeding is brought under 15 U.S.C. §§ pursuant to sections 78fff(b) and 78fff-2(c)(3) of SIPA, 11 U.S.C. §§ 105(a), 548(a), 550(a) and 551 and other applicable law.

DEFENDANTS

9. Upon information and belief, Initial Transferee Defendant Lanx Investments is a limited liability company that was formed under the laws of the State of Delaware. It maintains its principal place of business at One State Street Plaza, 29th Floor, New York, New York 10004. Lanx Investments held a BLMIS account in the name, “Lanx BM Investments, LLC,” with the account address reported at One State Street Plaza, 29th Floor, New York, New York, 10004.

10. Upon information and belief, Subsequent Transferee Defendant The Lanx Fund II, LP is a limited partnership that maintains its principal place of business at 230 Park Avenue, Suite 539, New York, New York, 10022.

11. Upon information and belief, Subsequent Transferee Defendant Wolfson Cousins, LP is a limited partnership that maintains its principal place of business at One State Street Plaza, 29th Floor, New York, New York, 10004.

12. Upon information and belief, Subsequent Transferee Defendant Edara Partnership is a partnership that maintains its principal place of business at the State Street Plaza, 29th Floor, New York, New York, 10004.

13. Upon information and belief, Subsequent Transferee Defendant Sarah Trust, is a Trust.

BACKGROUND, THE TRUSTEE AND STANDING

14. On December 11, 2008 (the “Filing Date”), Madoff was arrested by federal agents for criminal violations of federal securities laws, including securities fraud, investment adviser fraud, and mail and wire fraud. Contemporaneously, the Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC”) commenced the District Court Proceeding.

15. On December 15, 2008, under SIPA § 78eee(a)(4)(A), the SEC consented to combining its action with an application by the Securities Investor Protection Corporation (“SIPC”). Thereafter, under SIPA § 78eee(a)(4)(B), SIPC filed an application in the District Court alleging, among other things, that BLMIS could not meet its obligations to securities customers as they came due and its customers needed the protections afforded by SIPA.

16. Also on December 15, 2008, Judge Stanton granted SIPC’s application and entered an order pursuant to SIPA, which, in pertinent part:

- a. appointed the Trustee for the liquidation of the business of BLMIS pursuant to SIPA § 78eee(b)(3);
- b. appointed Baker & Hostetler LLP as counsel to the Trustee pursuant to SIPA § 78eee(b)(3); and
- c. removed the case to this Court pursuant to SIPA § 78eee(b)(4).

17. By orders dated December 23, 2008 and February 4, 2009, respectively, this Court approved the Trustee’s bond and found that the Trustee was a disinterested person. Accordingly, the Trustee is duly qualified to serve and act on behalf of the estate.

18. On April 13, 2009, an involuntary bankruptcy petition was filed against Madoff, and on June 9, 2009, this Court substantively consolidated the chapter 7 estate of Madoff into the SIPA Proceeding.

19. At a plea hearing on March 12, 2009, in the case captioned *United States v. Madoff*, Case No. 09-CR-213(DC), Madoff pleaded guilty to an 11-count criminal information filed against him by the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York. At the plea hearing, Madoff admitted he “operated a Ponzi scheme through the investment advisory side of [BLMIS].”

20. At a plea hearing on August 11, 2009, in the case captioned *United States v. DiPascali*, Case No. 09-CR-764 (RJS), Frank DiPascali, a former BLMIS employee, pleaded guilty to a ten-count criminal information charging him with participating in and conspiring to perpetuate the Ponzi scheme. DiPascali admitted that no purchases or sales of securities took place in connection with BLMIS customer accounts and that the Ponzi scheme had been ongoing at BLMIS since at least the 1980s.

21. At a plea hearing on November 21, 2011, in the case captioned *United States v. Kugel*, Case No. 10-CR-228 (LTS), David Kugel, a former BLMIS trader and manager, pleaded guilty to a six-count criminal information charging him with securities fraud, falsifying the records of BLMIS, conspiracy, and bank fraud. Kugel admitted to helping create false, backdated trades in BLMIS customer accounts beginning in the early 1970s.

22. On March 24, 2014, Daniel Bonventre, Annette Bongiorno, Jo Ann Crupi, George Perez, and Jerome O’Hara were convicted of fraud and other crimes in connection with their participation in the Ponzi scheme as employees of BLMIS’s investment advisory business (“IA Business”).

23. As the Trustee appointed under SIPA, the Trustee is charged with assessing claims, recovering and distributing customer property to BLMIS’s customers holding allowed customer claims, and liquidating any remaining BLMIS assets for the benefit of the estate and its

creditors. The Trustee is using his authority under SIPA and the Bankruptcy Code to avoid and recover payouts of fictitious profits and/or other transfers made by the Debtors to customers and others to the detriment of defrauded, innocent customers whose money was consumed by the Ponzi scheme. Absent this and other recovery actions, the Trustee will be unable to satisfy the claims described in subparagraphs (A) through (D) of SIPA § 78fff-2(c)(1).

24. Pursuant to SIPA § 78fff-1(a), the Trustee has the general powers of a bankruptcy trustee in a case under the Bankruptcy Code in addition to the powers granted by SIPA pursuant to SIPA § 78fff(b). Chapters 1, 3, 5 and subchapters I and II of chapter 7 of the Bankruptcy Code apply to this proceeding to the extent consistent with SIPA pursuant to SIPA § 78fff(b).

25. The Trustee has standing to bring the avoidance and recovery claims under SIPA § 78fff-1(a) and applicable provisions of the Bankruptcy Code, including 11 U.S.C. §§ 323(b) and 704(a)(1), because the Trustee has the power and authority to avoid and recover transfers under Bankruptcy Code sections 548, 550(a), and 551, and SIPA §§ 78fff-1(a) and 78fff-2(c)(3).

THE PONZI SCHEME

26. Madoff founded BLMIS in or about 1960 as a sole proprietorship. On January 1, 2001, Madoff continued BLMIS as a sole member limited liability company under the laws of the State of New York. BLMIS's ownership and control did not change since its formation in 1960. During that time, BLMIS had been continually registered with the SEC, and remained a SIPC member since its formation in late 1970. For most of its existence, BLMIS operated from its principal place of business at 885 Third Avenue, New York, New York. Madoff, as founder, sole owner, chairman, and chief executive officer, operated BLMIS with several family members and other employees, including DiPascali and David Kugel, who pleaded guilty to helping Madoff carry out the fraudulent scheme.

27. Beginning in the 1990s, Madoff outwardly ascribed the consistent investment success of BLMIS's IA Business to the "split-strike conversion" ("SSC") investment strategy. Madoff claimed his strategy would produce steady returns without the volatility in the stock market or other high return investment strategies. Madoff generally indicated that investors' funds would be invested in a basket of common stocks within the Standard & Poor's 100 Index ("S&P 100 Index"), which is a collection of the 100 largest publicly traded companies, as determined by Standard & Poor's Index Committee. The basket of stocks was designed to correlate to the movement of the S&P 100 Index. The second part of the SSC strategy involved purporting to sell call options and buy put options on the S&P 100 Index; this is commonly referred to as a "collar." Madoff purported to purchase and sell option contracts to control the downside risk of price changes in the basket of stocks correlated to the performance of the S&P 100 Index. All options relating to the companies within the S&P 100 Index, including options based upon the S&P 100 Index itself, clear through the Options Clearing Corporation ("OCC"). The OCC has no records showing that BLMIS's IA Business cleared any trades in any exchange-listed options.

28. BLMIS commingled all of the funds received from IA Business investors in a single BLMIS account maintained at JPMorgan Chase Bank.

29. Because Madoff claimed that he would carefully time purchases and sales to maximize value, customer funds would intermittently be out of the market. During those times, Madoff claimed that the funds were invested in U.S. Treasury securities ("Treasury Bills") or mutual funds invested in Treasury Bills. There is no record of BLMIS clearing a single purchase or sale of securities in connection with the SSC strategy at the Depository Trust & Clearing Corporation, the clearing house for such transactions, or any other trading platform on which

BLMIS could have traded securities. There are no other BLMIS records that demonstrate that BLMIS traded securities using the SSC strategy.

30. At their plea hearings, Madoff and DiPascali admitted that BLMIS purchased none of the securities listed on the IA Business customers' fraudulent statements.

31. Madoff operated the IA Business as a Ponzi scheme. The money received from IA Business customers was used primarily to make distributions to, or payments for, other customers. The falsified trades reflected in monthly account statements made it appear that the IA Business accounts included substantial gains on customers' principal investments. The Ponzi scheme collapsed in December 2008, when the requests for redemptions overwhelmed the flow of new investments with BLMIS's IA Business.

32. Since at least 1983, BLMIS financial reports filed with the SEC fraudulently omitted the existence of the billions of dollars of customer funds held by BLMIS.

33. BLMIS did not register as an investment adviser with the SEC until August 2006. At that time, BLMIS filed with the SEC a Form ADV (Uniform Application for Investment Adviser Registration) representing, among other things, that BLMIS had 23 customer accounts and assets under management of \$11.7 billion. Thereafter, BLMIS filed a Form ADV annually with the SEC, the latest of which was filed in January 2008. It represented that BLMIS had 23 customer accounts with assets under management of \$17.1 billion. In fact, at that time BLMIS had over 4,900 active customer accounts with a purported value of approximately \$68 billion under management.

34. Contrary to standard practice in the investment advisory industry, BLMIS did not charge the IA Business customers a fee for investment advisory services. Madoff knew others that solicited investors for BLMIS, or, directly or indirectly, funded customer accounts, charged

hundreds of millions of dollars for investment advisory services attributed to BLMIS. Instead of investment advisory fees, BLMIS purported to accept commissions for the purported trades, as reflected in the fraudulent IA Business customer statements.

35. BLMIS's auditor was Friebling & Horowitz, CPA, P.C. ("Friebling & Horowitz"), a three-person accounting firm in Rockland County, New York. Of the three employees at the firm, one employee was an administrative assistant and one was a semi-retired accountant living in Florida. On or about November 3, 2009, David Friebling, the sole proprietor of Friebling & Horowitz, pleaded guilty to filing false audit reports for BLMIS and filing false tax returns for Madoff and others.

36. At all relevant times, BLMIS was insolvent because (i) its assets were worth less than the value of its liabilities; (ii) it could not meet its obligations as they came due; and (iii) at the time of the transfers alleged herein, BLMIS was left with insufficient capital.

THE TRANSFERS

37. According to BLMIS's records, Lanx Investments maintained Account No. 1L0228 with BLMIS, as set forth on Exhibit A (the "Account"). Upon information and belief, for the Account, a Customer Agreement, an Option Agreement, and/or a Trading Authorization Limited to Purchases and Sales of Securities and Options (collectively, the "Account Agreements") were executed and delivered to BLMIS at BLMIS's headquarters at 885 Third Avenue, New York, New York.

38. The Account Agreements were to be performed in New York, New York through securities trading activities that would take place in New York, New York. The Account was held in New York, New York, and Initial Transferee Defendant sent funds to BLMIS and/or to BLMIS's account at JPMorgan Chase & Co., Account #xxxxxxxxxx1703 (the "BLMIS Bank Account") in New York, New York for application to the Account and the purported conducting

of trading activities. Between the date the Account was opened and the Filing Date, Lanx Investments made deposits to BLMIS through checks and/or wire transfers into the BLMIS Bank Account and/or received inter-account transfers from other BLMIS accounts.

39. During the two year prior to the Filing Date, BLMIS made transfers (collectively, the “Initial Transfers”) to Lanx Investments totaling \$5,717,254 in fictitious profits from the Ponzi scheme.

40. The Transfers received by Initial Transferee Defendant constitute non-existent profits supposedly earned in the Account, but, in reality, they were other people’s money. The Transfers, as discussed in detail below, were made to Initial Transferee Defendant and are set forth in Column 10 on Exhibit B annexed hereto.

41. Specifically, Abraham Wolfson, on behalf of Lanx Investments, requested that BLMIS wire each of the Transfers to a bank account held in the name of Lanx BM Investments, LLC (the “Lanx Investments Bank Account”). Following each request, each Transfer was wired from BLMIS to the Lanx Investments Bank Account.

42. On or about September 24, 2008, Abraham Wolfson, on behalf of Lanx Investments, sent a letter to BLMIS by facsimile, requesting that BLMIS transfer \$2,900,000 from the Account to the Lanx Investments Bank Account. On or about September 24, 2008, consistent with Initial Transferee Defendants’ instructions, BLMIS wired \$2,900,000 from the BLMIS Bank Account to the Lanx Investments Bank Account. Of this amount, \$1,517,254 constituted non-existent profits supposedly earned in the Account. *See* Exhibit B, Column 10.

43. On or about September 24, 2008, Lanx Investments transferred to Lanx Fund II, L.P., the 2,900,000 received from BLMIS which was designated by Lanx Investments as a partner draw. Of this amount \$1,517,254 constituted non-existent profits supposedly earned in

the Account.

44. On or about October 14, 2008, Abraham Wolfson, on behalf of Lanx Investments, sent a letter to BLMIS by facsimile, requesting that BLMIS transfer \$4,200,000 from the Account to the Lanx Investments Bank Account. On or about October 14, 2008, consistent with Defendants' instructions, BLMIS wired \$4,200,000 from the BLMIS Bank Account to the Lanx Investments Bank Account. All of this amount constituted non-existent profits supposedly earned in the Account. *See Exhibit B, Column 10.*

45. On or about October 16, 2008, Lanx Investments transferred to Lanx Fund II, L.P., \$57,917 of the \$4,200,000 received from BLMIS on October 14, 2008, which was designated by Lanx Investments as a partner draw. All of this amount constituted non-existent profits supposedly earned in the Account.

46. On or about October 16, 2008, Lanx Investments transferred to Wolfson Cousins, L.P., \$1,845,173 of the \$4,200,000 received from BLMIS on October 14, 2008, which was designated by Lanx Investments as a partner draw. All of this amount constituted non-existent profits supposedly earned in the Account.

47. On or about October 16, 2008, Lanx Investments transferred to Edara Partnership, \$1,948,790 of the \$4,200,000 received from BLMIS on October 14, 2008, which was designated by Lanx Investments as a partner draw. All of this amount constituted non-existent profits supposedly earned in the Account.

48. On or about October 16, 2008, Lanx Investments transferred to Sarah Trust, \$348,120 of the \$4,200,000 received from BLMIS on October 14, 2008, which was designated by Lanx Investments as a partner draw. All of this amount constituted non-existent profits supposedly earned in the Account.

49. The Initial Transfers to Lanx Investments are avoidable and recoverable under sections 548(a), 550(a)(1) and 551 of the Bankruptcy Code and applicable provisions of SIPA, particularly SIPA § 78fff-2(c)(3).

50. The Subsequent Transfers to Lanx Fund II, L.P., Wolfson Cousins, L.P., Edara Partnership and Sarah Trust, or the value thereof, are recoverable from these Subsequent Transferee Defendants pursuant to Section 550(a) of the Bankruptcy Code.

51. The Trustee's investigation is ongoing and the Trustee reserves the right to (i) supplement the information regarding the Transfers, Subsequent Transfers and any additional transfers and (ii) seek recovery of such additional transfers.

52. To the extent that any of the avoidance and/or recovery counts may be inconsistent with each other, they are to be treated as being pled in the alternative.

COUNT ONE
FRAUDULENT TRANSFER – 11 U.S.C. §§ 105(a), 548(a)(1)(A), 550(a) AND 551

53. To the extent applicable, the Trustee incorporates by reference the allegations contained in the previous paragraphs of this First Amended Complaint as if fully rewritten herein.

54. Each of the Transfers was made on or within two years before the Filing Date.

55. Each of the Transfers constituted a transfer of an interest of BLMIS in property within the meaning of section 101(54) of the Bankruptcy Code and pursuant to section 78fff-2(c)(3) of SIPA.

56. Each of the Transfers was made by BLMIS with the actual intent to hinder, delay or defraud some or all of BLMIS's then existing and/or future creditors.

57. Each of the Transfers constitutes a fraudulent transfer avoidable by the Trustee pursuant to section 548(a)(1)(A) of the Bankruptcy Code and recoverable from Defendants pursuant to section 550(a) of the Bankruptcy Code and section 78fff-2(c)(3) of SIPA.

58. As a result of the foregoing, pursuant to sections 105(a), 548(a)(1)(A), 550(a), and 551 of the Bankruptcy Code and 15 U.S.C. § 78fff-2(c)(3), as applicable, the Trustee is entitled to a judgment: (a) avoiding and preserving the Transfers; (b) directing that the Transfers be set aside; (c) recovering the Transfers, or the value thereof, from the Defendants for the benefit of the BLMIS estate; and (d) awarding any other relief the Court deems just and appropriate.

COUNT TWO
RECOVERY OF SUBSEQUENT TRANSFERS –
11 U.S.C. §§ 105(a), 548(a)(1)(A), 550(a) AND 551

59. To the extent applicable, the Trustee incorporates by reference the allegations contained in the previous paragraphs of this First Amended Complaint as if fully rewritten herein.

60. Each of the Transfers is recoverable from Subsequent Transferee Defendants under section 550(a) of the Bankruptcy Code and section 78fff-2(c)(3) of SIPA.

61. Each of the Subsequent Transfers was made by Lanx Investments directly or indirectly to Subsequent Transferee Defendants.

62. Subsequent Transferee Defendants are immediate or mediate transferees of the Subsequent Transfers from Defendant Lanx Investments.

63. As a result of the foregoing, pursuant to sections 105(a) and 550(a) of the Bankruptcy Code, and section 78fff-2(c)(3) of SIPA, the Trustee is entitled to a judgment against Subsequent Transferee Defendants: (a) recovering the Subsequent Transfers, or the value thereof, from Subsequent Transferee Defendants for the benefit of the BLMIS estate; and (b)

awarding any other relief the Court deems just and appropriate.

WHEREFORE, the Trustee respectfully requests that this Court enter judgment in favor of the Trustee and against Defendants as follows:

i. On the First Claim for Relief, pursuant to sections 105(a), 548(a)(1)(A), 550(a) and 551 of the Bankruptcy Code, and section 78fff-2(c)(3) of SIPA, judgment: (a) avoiding and preserving the Transfers; (b) directing that the Transfers be set aside; (c) recovering the Transfers, or the value thereof, from Lanx Investments for the benefit of the BLMIS estate; and (d) awarding any other relief the Court deems just and appropriate;

ii. On the Second Claim for Relief as a result of the avoidance of the within Transfers, pursuant to section 105(a) and 550(a) of the Bankruptcy Code and section 78fff-2(c)(3) of SIPA: (a) recovering the Subsequent Transfers, or the value thereof, from Subsequent Transferee Defendants for the benefit of the BLMIS estate; and (b) awarding any other relief the Court deems just and appropriate;

iii. On all Claims for Relief, pursuant to federal common law and/or N.Y. CPLR 5001 and 5004, as applicable, awarding the Trustee prejudgment interest from the date on which the Initial Transfers were received;

iv. On all Claims for Relief, all applicable interest, costs and disbursements incurred in this proceeding; and

v. Granting the Trustee such other, further, and different relief as the Court deems just, proper, and equitable.

Date: May 8, 2017
New York, New York

By: /s/ Keith R. Murphy
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